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CENTENNIAL NOTES.

By A. L. CARTER.

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PREFACE.

THE general desire, expressed at this particular period, by my pupils for a short and comprehensive view of American history during the past century, has led me to compile and arrange these "Centennial Notes," taken from such well-known authorities as Dr. Lord, Spencer, Lossing, Goodrich, Higginson, Statesman's Year Book, and the United States Census. Whatever merit the selections may lack, their brevity will commend them to the many whose time will not permit a more careful examination of these authorities.

Should they stimulate and create a desire in the mind of the reader to study the works of American historians, then my object will have been accomplished.

A. L. CARTER.

CENTENNIAL NOTES.

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CENTENNIAL NOTES.

CHAPTER I.

THE GRAND EVENT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY—THE CAUSES OF THE REVOLUTION—THE GREAT COLONIAL CONGRESS—THE FRIENDS OF AMERICA IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

THE GRAND EVENT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

"THE American revolution, in whatever light it may be viewed, was the grand event of the eighteenth century, and one of the most momentous in its consequences, in the whole history of society. It excited intense interest throughout the civilized world when it took place, and its effect has been constantly progressive.

"It is memorable for the great deeds of heroes—for the development of unknown energies—for the establishment of a new empire—for the shock it gave to political power in Europe—for the impulse it communicated to the cause of liberty throughout the world—and for the hope

it inspired among all depressed people of their own future triumph."*

THE CAUSES OF THE REVOLUTION.

The celebrated "Navigation Act" of 1660, with the additional restrictions of 1663, was felt severely throughout the colonies, but particularly in commercial New England. It sought to keep the Americans dependent on the mother country, making England the only place where colonial products could be sent for a market, and whence the colonists should draw their supply of foreign merchandise.

The Americans strove to encourage manufacture within their own borders. Iron-works were established in Massachusetts, and the production of iron being so great in Pennsylvania, it was exported to the other colonies. In 1750 the Americans were prohibited from sending pig-iron to England and from manufacturing steel and bar-iron for home use.

Parliament prohibited, in 1732, the transportation of American woolen goods from one colony to another, and hats, the making of which was

* LORD.

already a thriving business, were placed under the same restrictions as woolen goods. As an argument for this, it was asserted that from the abundance of beaver and other furs in America, the colonists, unless restrained, would soon supply all the world with hats.

The "Sugar Act" was passed in 1733, imposing a duty on rum, molasses, and sugar imported from foreign colonies into any of the British plantations. This was passed to protect the West India colonial productions at the expense of the North American colonies.

The "Stamp Act," passed by Parliament in 1765, imposed a duty on all paper, vellum, and parchment used in the colonies, and declared all writings on unstamped materials to be null and void. This act was repealed in 1766.

The "Quartering Act" was still more irritating to the Americans than the "Stamp Act." A standing army was ordered for the colonies, and the people, wherever these troops were stationed, were required by this enactment to find quarters, fire-wood, bedding, drink, soap, and candles for the soldiers.

In June, 1767, a new bill was passed, to tax the colonies, in which tea, paints, paper, glass, and lead were made subject to duty. The colonial newspapers (twenty-five in number) were filled with stirring and patriotic articles. The non-importation agreement, which had for the time been forgotten, was again adopted in Boston, Providence, New York, and Philadelphia. When the ships laden with tea arrived in Boston, the citizens determined it should not be landed, and on the refusal of Gov. Hutchinson to allow the vessels to return to England, forty or fifty men, dressed as Indians, on the night of Dec. 16, 1773, boarded the vessels, and emptied, in two hours, three hundred and forty-two chests of tea. When the news of this reached England, Parliament immediately passed the "Boston Port Bill," closing the harbor of the town, and moving the port of entry and seat of Government to Salem. Boston was chiefly dependent on her commerce, and the destruction of her trade produced great distress among her people. The colonies immediately sent liberal contributions to the citizens, and advised calling a con-

gress to consider the grievances of the people, and declared that an attack upon one colony was an attack upon all.*

THE GREAT COLONIAL CONGRESS.

The "Great Congress" of the Revolution, composed of delegates from all the colonies, except Georgia, met at Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1774. Peyton Randolph, of Virginia, was chosen President. It was composed of fifty-three delegates, all of whom were men of character and influence. Among the more distinguished were Samuel and John Adams of Massachusetts; Sherman and Deane of Connecticut; Livingston and Jay of New York; Henry, Washington, and Lee of Virginia; and the two Rutledges of South Carolina.

"The most eminent men of the various colonies," says Mr. Wirt, writing from traditionary information, "were now, for the first time, brought together. They were known to each other by fame, but they were personally strangers. The meeting was awfully solemn. The object which had called them together was of incalculable magnitude. The liberties of no less

* SCOTT.

than three millions of people, with that of all their posterity, was staked on the wisdom and energy of their counsels. No wonder, then, at the long, deep silence which is said to have followed upon their organization; at the anxiety with which the members looked around upon each other; and the reluctance which every individual felt to open a business so fearfully momentous. In the midst of this deep and death-like silence, and just when it was beginning to become painfully embarrassing, Mr. Henry arose slowly, as if borne down by the weight of the subject. After faltering, according to his habit, through a most impressive exordium, in which he merely echoed back the consciousness of every other heart, in deploring his inability to do justice to the occasion, he launched gradually into a recital of the colonial wrongs. Rising, as he advanced, with the grandeur of his subject, and glowing, at length, with all the majesty and expectation of the occasion, his speech seemed more than that of mortal man..... He sat down amidst murmurs of astonishment and applause; and, as he had before been proclaimed the great-

est orator of Virginia, he was now, on every hand, admitted to be the first orator of America."*

The proceedings were conducted with closed doors. It was resolved that obedience was not due to any of the recent acts of Parliament, and that Massachusetts should be sustained in her resistance to what was universally considered unjust and unconstitutional.

A declaration of colonial rights was voted, and in order to enforce the rights, it was agreed to hold no commercial intercourse with Great Britain and the West Indies, and to take every measure to encourage domestic manufactures.

At the close of October, after a session of fifty-one days, Congress adjourned, after having previously arranged to meet again May 10, 1775. Every subject was fully and fairly discussed, and the papers issued by this Congress have been pronounced masterpieces of profound political wisdom and truth.

The eulogium of Lord Chatham on these State papers deserves to be quoted here: "When your lordships have perused the papers trans-

* Wirt's "Life of Patrick Henry."

mitted to us from America, when you consider the dignity, the firmness, and the wisdom with which the Americans have acted, you cannot but respect their cause. History, my lords, has been my favorite study, and in the celebrated writings of antiquity, I have often admired the patriotism of Greece and Rome; but, my lords, I must declare and avow, that, in the master States of the world, I know not the people, nor the senate, who, in such a complication of difficult circumstances, can stand in preference to the delegates of America assembled in general Congress at Philadelphia. I trust it is obvious to your lordships, that all attempts to impose servitude upon such men, to establish despotism over such a mighty continental nation, must be in vain, must be futile."

Of Washington's share in the debates we have no means of knowing, but there can be no doubt that he exercised a powerful influence; for it is related that Patrick Henry, on being asked whom he thought the greatest man in Congress, replied, "If you speak of eloquence, Mr. Rutledge, of South Carolina, is by far the greatest orator;

but if you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on that floor." *

THE FRIENDS OF AMERICA IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

Great Britain received the report of the proceedings of Congress, and the general state of insubordination throughout the colonies, with any feelings but those of indifference.

The more experienced and profound of the British statesmen perceived the importance of the crisis. Lord Chatham besought the ministers to withdraw the troops from Boston, and revoke the obnoxious acts. He spoke of the means thus far employed for enforcing obedience as inefficient and ridiculous. He panegyrized the American Congress and the American people. The Marquis of Rockingham and Lord Shelbourne supported his motion, and Lord Camden declared that England had no right to tax America.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Burke, Mr. Fox, and Col. Barré proposed conciliatory meas-

* SPENCER.

ures; Bollan, Franklin, and Lee also petitioned to be heard at the bar of the House of Commons, that they might explain the subject of their grievances, and communicate important information.

At the beginning of February, 1775, Lord Chatham brought forward a bill for settling the troubles in the colonies, which he had shown to Dr. Franklin, before he submitted it to the House of Lords, but the latter had not an opportunity of proposing certain alterations which he had sketched. Dr. Franklin, however, at the special request of Lord Chatham, was present at the debates upon it. Lord Dartmouth was at first disposed to have the bill lie upon the table; but Lord Sandwich opposed its being received, and moved that it be immediately "rejected with the contempt it deserved. He could never believe," he said, "that it was the production of a British peer; it appeared to him rather THE WORK OF SOME AMERICAN." Turning his face toward Dr. Franklin, then standing at the bar, "He fancied," he said, "he had in his eye the person who drew it up, one of the bitterest and

most mischievous enemies this country had ever known." To this part of the speech of Lord Sandwich, the great Chatham replied, by saying, "that it was entirely his own." "This declaration," he said, "he thought himself the more obliged to make, as many of their lordships appeared to have so mean an opinion of it: for if it was so weak, or so bad a thing, it was proper in him to take care that no other person should unjustly share in the censure it deserved. It had been heretofore reckoned his vice not to be apt to take advice; but he made no scruple to declare, that if he were the first minister in this country, and had the care of settling this momentous business, he should not be ashamed of publicly calling to his assistance a person so perfectly acquainted with the whole of American affairs, as the gentleman alluded to, and so injuriously reflected on; one whom all Europe held in estimation for his knowledge and wisdom, and ranked with our Boyles and Newtons; who was an honor, not to the English nation only, but to human nature."*

* Pitkin's Civil and Political History of the United States.

On Lord North, as the great representative of the English mind, must rest the blame for not adopting measures for reconciliation. It was resolved to coerce the colonies, and they were declared to be in a state of rebellion. This was in fact a declaration of war, of no common war, but of desperate, deadly strife. It was so understood by the popular leaders of America. All classes felt that they must choose between slavery and freedom, and every one echoed the sentiment of Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" The moment that blood should actually be shed in the defence of liberty, that moment would prove the signal for a general rising of the people, and for the "Declaration of Independence." The town of Lexington, Mass., was the immortal spot where the first altar to perpetual liberty smoked with human sacrifice, where the fire of Revolution was kindled, which spread with the rapidity of lightning until the whole continent was in a blaze.*

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* LORD.

CHAPTER II.

THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON, APRIL 19, 1775—THE TAKING OF TICONDEROGA, MAY 10, 1775—WASHINGTON APPOINTED TO THE COMMAND OF THE ARMY JUNE 15TH; TOOK COMMAND JULY 2D—THE EVACUATION OF BOSTON MARCH 17, 1776—THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE JULY 4TH.

THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON.

GEN. GAGE, the royal governor, having learned that military stores were deposited at Concord, resolved to seize them, and despatched eight hundred troops under Col. Smith for that purpose. It had been agreed by the colonists that a special watch should be kept at Charlestown, and if at any time a large force was preparing to go out of Boston at night, a lamp should be hung out from the North Church by way of signal. One night the watchers on the Charlestown side the river saw the lantern gleaming in the steeple. Instantly all were in motion, and messengers went riding in all directions. Other

messengers had meanwhile been sent across in boats from Boston, and one of these, named Paul Revere, mounted a horse immediately after landing, and galloped out through Medford, to a house where the patriot leaders, John Hancock and John Adams, were sleeping.

"Do not make so much noise," said the soldier on guard before the house. "Noise!" said Paul Revere; "you'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out!" And he galloped on from house to house, awakening all the principal farmers.

Meantime the British soldiers crossed over to East Cambridge. They moved silently along the marshes; when suddenly the bells of the country towns began to ring, and it was plain that the alarm had been given. Paul Revere and the other scouts had done their work well. The commanding officer of the British sent back for more troops, and Major Pitcairn was sent forward with two or three hundred infantry. When Pitcairn passed through Lexington, at four o'clock in the morning, April 19, 1775, he found sixty or seventy militia collected on the green, commanded by Capt. John Parker.

The British officer called upon them to lay down their arms, and disperse. The order was not obeyed, and the British fired. Only eight men were killed, but that was enough to arouse the whole nation. After this, the regulars marched on toward Concord. When they had destroyed all the military stores they could find, they prepared to return. But it was more difficult to go back than to come. The guns and bells had roused the whole country round, and men came hurrying from all directions, without order or discipline, with guns in their hands, and ready to fire from behind stone walls and trees, so that men were constantly falling wounded or killed. The British suffered nearly three times as much as the Americans in killed, wounded, and missing.*

The news of the battle of Lexington produced an immense sensation throughout the colonies. In a short time some 15,000 men were collected under various commanders. Gen. Ward commanded those from Massachusetts, Gen. Stark those from New Hampshire, Gen. Greene those

* HIGGINSON.

from Rhode Island, and Gens. Spencer and Putnam those from Connecticut.

TAKING OF TICONDEROGA.

In the first impulse of enthusiasm, Ethan Allen and Seth Warner raised a force among the Green Mountain boys, with a view to take Ticonderoga and Crown Point, which were defended at that time by only sixty men.

As Allen approached Ticonderoga he was unexpectedly joined by Arnold. The fort was surprised about daybreak, and easily taken. A sentinel snapped his gun at them, and retreated to alarm his sleeping comrades. The American troops having followed their leaders, formed into two lines on the parade ground and gave three hearty cheers. Allen, attended by a guide, hurried to the room of the commandant, and knocking at his door, ordered his immediate appearance or the whole garrison should be put to death. The Captain hastened to the door, "the frightened face of his pretty wife peering over his shoulder," and gazing in bewildered astonishment at Allen, he exclaimed, "By whose

authority do you act?" "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress!" replied Allen, with a flourish of his sword. There was no alternative but to surrender, and a large supply of military stores were found in the fortress. Crown Point surrendered the 12th of May, without firing a gun. Thus a partisan band, by a series of daring exploits, won for the patriots the command of Lake George and Lake Champlain, and threw open the great highway to Canada.

WASHINGTON APPOINTED "COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY."

Before the news of these successes could reach Congress, which reassembled at Philadelphia May 10, 1775, it had resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the state of affairs consequent upon the battle of Lexington. The most important measure adopted by the Continental Congress was the appointment of a "Commander-in-chief." At the recommendation of the New England delegates, George Washington was unanimously

chosen, with four Major-Generals — Artemas Ward, Charles Lee, Philip Schuyler, and Israel Putnam. It was thought best that the General-in-chief should not be from New England, because it was wished that all the colonies should join in the war. Besides, there was no man in America who could claim to equal Washington in military reputation.

John Adams, in his diary, claims the credit of bringing the members of Congress to a decision.

The army was assembled at Cambridge, Massachusetts, under General Ward, and Congress was sitting at Philadelphia. Every day new applications in behalf of the army arrived. The country was urgent that Congress should legalize the raising of the army, as they had what must be considered, and was in law considered, only a mob—a band of armed rebels. The country was placed in circumstances of peculiar difficulty and danger. The struggle had begun, yet everything was without order. The great trial now seemed to be in this question, Who shall be the Commander-in-chief? It was exceedingly important, and was felt to be the

hinge on which the contest might turn for or against us. The Southern and the Middle States, warm and rapid in their zeal, were for the most part jealous of New England, because they felt that the real physical force was there. What, then, was to be done? All New England adored General Ward. He had been in the French war, and went out laden with laurels. He was a scholar and a statesman. Every qualification seemed to centre in him; and it was confidently believed that the army could not receive any appointment over him. What, then, was to be done? Difficulties thickened at every step. The struggle was to be long and bloody. Without union all was lost. The country, and the whole country, must come in. One pulsation must beat through all hearts. The cause was one, and the army must be one. The members had talked, debated, considered, and guessed, and yet the decisive step had not been taken. At length Mr. Adams came to his conclusion. The means of resolving it were somewhat singular and nearly as follows: He was walking one morning before Congress Hall, apparently in

deep thought, when his cousin, Samuel Adams, came up to him and said, "What is the topic with you this morning?"

"Oh, the army, the army," he replied. "I'm determined to go into the hall this morning and enter on a full detail of the state of the colonies, in order to show an absolute need of taking some decisive steps. My whole aim will be to induce Congress to appoint a day for adopting the army of these united colonies of North America, and then to hint at my election of a Commander-in-chief."

"Well," said Samuel Adams, "I like that, cousin John; but on whom have you fixed as that commander?"

"I will tell you—George Washington, of Virginia—a member of this house."

"Oh," replied Samuel Adams, quickly, "that will never do—never."

"It must do—it *shall* do," said John, "and for these reasons the Southern and Middle States are both to enter heartily into the cause, and their arguments are potent; they say that New England holds the physical power in her hands,

and they fear the result. A New England army, a New England commander, with New England perseverance, all united, appal them. For this cause they hang back. Now, the only course is to allay their fears, and give them nothing to complain of; and this can be done in no other way but by appointing a Southern chief over this force, and then all rush to the standard. The policy will blend us all in one mass, and that mass will be resistless."

At this Samuel Adams seemed to be greatly moved. They talked over the preliminary circumstances, and John asked his cousin to second the motion.

Mr. Adams went in, took the floor, and put forth all his strength in the delineation he had prepared—all aiming at the adoption of the army. He was ready to own the army, appoint a commander, vote supplies, and proceed to business. After his speech had been finished, some objected and some feared. His warmth increased with the occasion, and to all these doubts and hesitations he replied thus:

"Gentlemen, if this Congress will not adopt

this army before ten moons have set, New England will adopt it, and she will undertake the struggle alone; yes, with a strong arm and a clear conscience, she will front the foe single-handed."

This had the desired effect. They saw New England was neither playing, nor to be played with, and they agreed to appoint a day. A day was fixed; it came. Mr. Adams went in, took the floor, urged the measure, and after some debate it passed.

The next thing was to get a commander for this army, with supplies, etc. All looked to Mr. Adams on the occasion, and he was ready. He then took the floor and went into a minute delineation of the character of General Ward, bestowing on him the encomiums which then belonged to no one else. At the end of the eulogy, he said: "But this is not the man I have chosen." He then went into the delineation of the character of a commander-in-chief such as was required by the peculiar situation of the colonies at that juncture. And after he had presented the qualifications in his strongest

language, and given the reasons for the nomination he was about to make, he said:

"Gentlemen, I know these qualifications are high, but we all know they are needful; at this crisis, in this chief, does any one say they are not to be obtained in this country? In reply, I have to say they are; they reside in one of our own body, and he is the person whom I now nominate—*George Washington*, of Virginia."

Washington, who sat on Mr. Adams' right hand, was looking him intently in the face, to catch the name he was about to announce, and, not expecting it would be his, sprang from his seat the moment he heard it, and rushed into an adjoining room. Mr. Adams had asked his cousin Samuel to ask for an adjournment, as soon as the nomination was made, in order to give the members time to deliberate, and the result is before the world.

Before the arrangements previously alluded to were completed, was fought the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, which was productive of great moral results.

BUNKER HILL.

The British army, commanded by General Gage, was reinforced by a large body of regulars under Generals Howe, Burgoyne, and Clinton, and the American force which blockaded the town numbered 16,000 men, commanded by General Ward.

To complete the blockade, Col. Prescott was sent with 1,000 men to fortify Bunker's Hill, but by mistake advanced to Breed's Hill, nearer to Boston, and threw up intrenchments.

When morning dawned, General Gage could scarcely believe his eyes on seeing the opposite hill fortified, and full of men, which had been done during the night. He called a counsel of war, and it was determined to carry the works by assault. About 3,000 picked British troops, under Generals Howe and Pigot, left Boston, and having landed, began to ascend the hill. The Americans remained quiet until the British were within 150 yards of the works, and then delivered their fire so steady and well directed that the enemy fell back in disorder to the foot

of the hill. A second time they advanced, but with the same result. It was some time before they could be prepared for a third attack; in the meantime they had been reinforced by 1,000 fresh troops from Boston, under General Clinton. The powder of the Americans had begun to fail, and they were forced to fight at the point of the bayonet.

The provincials retreated slowly across the neck, and the hill remained in the hands of the British, but at a terrible sacrifice—they had lost 1,000 in killed and wounded. It was complained in England that none of their troops had ever returned so diminished in numbers from any battle. One regiment returned with only 25 men, and it is said, "no history could produce a parallel" to the courage that was shown that day by the British, in advancing under such a murderous fire. The Americans lost 450 men, among whom was the brave General Warren—a loss which the British estimated worth 500 men.

The battle of Bunker Hill was of the greatest importance to the colonies. First, it settled

the question that there was to be a war. Second, it showed that inexperienced American soldiers could resist regular troops.

About two weeks after the battle of Bunker Hill, Washington joined the army, and fixed his headquarters at Cambridge. The camp was joined by companies of riflemen from Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, which, with all their forces, prevented the British from advancing into the country.

The first movements of the American Congress and army were more vigorous than could have been expected from their deficiency in money and military stores. Nothing less than the conquest of Canada was contemplated. This task was entrusted to Generals Schuyler and Montgomery, with the co-operation of Arnold and Allen. The expedition proved unsuccessful, and Montgomery lost his life at the attack on Quebec.

General Schuyler was prevented by sickness from joining the army. Arnold was wounded and Ethan Allen taken prisoner at the attack on Montreal, placed in irons and sent to England

There, after enduring every species of hardship, was brought back to America and released after the victory of Saratoga (1778.)

THE EVACUATION OF BOSTON.

Meanwhile, Washington was waiting impatiently before Boston. His own wish had been to take active measures before this, but various circumstances prevented the accomplishment of his purposes. It was finally proposed by a counsel of war to force the British to evacuate Boston, by occupying the Heights of Dorchester, which commanded the entire city. All arrangements were soon made, and the Americans proceeded in profound silence toward the peninsula of Dorchester. All succeeded perfectly; they arrived upon the Heights, not only without being molested, but even without being perceived by the enemy. They set to work with such activity, that when morning dawned, the English discovered, with extreme surprise, the new fortifications of the Americans. The English Admiral having examined them,

declared that if the enemy was not dislodged from their position, his vessels could no longer remain in the harbor without the most imminent danger of destruction; therefore, there was no other choice left them but to drive the colonists from their position, or evacuate the city altogether.

The English commander, Gen. Howe, had about decided upon an attack, when upon further consideration it was found that the advantages could not compensate the dangers; besides, the port of Boston was far from being perfectly accommodated to the future operations of the army that was expected from England, and Gen. Howe himself had previously received instructions from Lord Dartmouth, one of the Secretaries of State, to evacuate the city and establish himself at New York. By a tacit agreement the British troops were unmolested in their retreat, and on the 27th of March Washington entered Boston in triumph; after a short sojourn, he hastened on to New York, both to defend that city and correspond more easily with Congress.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

For some time it was publicly discussed whether or not American Independence should be officially declared. The idea met with strong opposition in many of the colonies, but every day was gaining converts. On the 7th of June the subject was introduced into Congress by Richard Henry Lee, who moved, in obedience to instructions from Virginia, "That the United colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent States, and that their political connection with Great Britain is, and ought to be, dissolved." It was opposed by some of the greatest friends of liberty, and some of the ablest men in Congress, as premature, among whom were Dickinson, Rutledge, and Livingston. The Declaration was written by Thomas Jefferson, though a few verbal changes were made by Adams and Franklin. There was a long discussion in Congress, and the Declaration was debated and criticised, and often severely attacked. John Adams was its most conspicuous defender.

On the ever-memorable 4th of July, 1776, The Declaration of Independence was publicly proclaimed from the door of the State House in Philadelphia, amid the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and shouts of universal rejoicing. Although the Declaration was adopted July 4th, it was not until August 2d that it was signed by all the members of Congress, fifty-six in number. When the members came up to sign their names, Dr. Franklin was ready, as usual, with his cheerful wit; John Hancock, who headed it, said to the others, "We must be unanimous—there must be no pulling different ways." "Yes," said Franklin, "we must all hang together, or else we shall all hang separately."

CHAPTER III.

BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND, AUGUST 27, 1776—BATTLE OF TRENTON, DEC. 26, 1776—CAMPAIGN OF 1777, INCLUDING THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON, JAN. 2, 1777—ARRIVAL OF LAFAYETTE IN APRIL 25, 1777, AT CHARLESTON, S. C. —ORIGIN AND ADOPTION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG BY CONGRESS, JUNE 14, 1777—THE BATTLE OF BENNINGTON, AUG. 16, 1777—THE BATTLE OF SARATOGA, OCT. 7, 1777—SURRENDER OF BURGOYNE, OCT. 17, 1777.

THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND.

A FEW days before the Declaration of Independence, Gen. Howe landed on Staten Island, with the army which had retreated from Boston, and soon after was joined by his brother, Admiral Lord Howe, with large reinforcements from England. Sir Henry Clinton also returned from the South with 24,000 men, and nothing less than the complete subjugation of the country was anticipated.

It was the design of the British to occupy New York and the Hudson, thus separating the Eastern from the Middle States. Washington

endeavored to prevent this, if possible, by occupying New York with a superior force.

Lord Howe and his brother were commissioned to treat for peace, but only on terms of absolute submission on the part of the colonies, and in no manner whatever to acknowledge the authority of Congress.

All negotiations having failed, the British army prepared for an immediate attack. Washington had expected the attack would be made by way of Long Island, and had already stationed a large body of troops under Generals Sullivan and Putnam at Brooklyn. On the 22d of August a part of the British army crossed over to Long Island, and landed just below Fort Hamilton. On the night of the 26th, the British advanced in three divisions, and began the attack. A battle ensued which lasted all the next day, and ceased only with the darkness of the night. The victory for the British was complete. Washington saw the destruction of his troops with the deepest anguish, and formed a plan for the salvation of the remainder of the army. Under cover of a heavy fog, at night, they crossed over

to New York in safety, and when the sunlight broke upon New York and Brooklyn, the last boat load of patriots had reached the city's shore. Gen. Howe, deeply mortified at the escape of his prey, prepared to make an immediate attack on New York, and Washington was obliged to retreat gradually through New York and New Jersey. The Americans were in a pitiable condition, many of them having neither shoes nor decent clothing, half-famished, and without tents to shelter them from the cold winter air. It now seemed particularly desirable that Washington should strike some daring blow. The public mind was filled with despondency, and as Philadelphia was in danger of being the seat of war, Congress had adjourned to Baltimore.

THE BATTLE OF TRENTON.

After crossing the Delaware into Pennsylvania, a large reinforcement, consisting of 1,500 men, besides a number of militia, was received, and Washington now had with him an army of about 7,000 men. The British army was at Trenton;

Christmas was at hand, a day when Germans especially indulge in convivial pleasures, and Washington resolved to fall upon them suddenly, while they were in slumber, after a day and night spent in carousing.

On the night of the 25th of December, the army, in three divisions, attempted to cross the Delaware, in as many different places. It was not only cold, but dark and stormy. The river was crowded with broken ice, rushing together and sweeping down its current. The division commanded by Washington was the only one which succeeded in passing over, and at eight in the morning was before Trenton. They attacked first a body of Hessians, who, after a determined resistance, surrendered. About 1,000 prisoners fell into the hands of the Americans, besides cannon, arms, and ammunition. Gen. Rahl, the commander of the Hessians, fell mortally wounded in the streets of Trenton. Thinking it imprudent to remain on the Jersey shore, Washington, with his prisoners and booty, recrossed the Delaware on the evening of the same day, but soon after returned to Trenton

and established his army there. This brilliant achievement roused the spirit of our army, and kindled anew the flagging hopes of the country.

When the Commander-in-chief, with his shivering, half-starved troops, fled across the Delaware, the British judged the rebellion at an end, and the American army annihilated. Cornwallis had returned to New York to embark for England, but when intelligence of the victory at Trenton reached Lord Howe, he ordered Cornwallis back with reinforcements to gain the advantage lost.

THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON.

The Americans soon discovered that the British were concentrating their forces at Princeton, and preparing for battle. Toward the evening of the 2d of January, 1777, Cornwallis, with a strong force, approached Trenton, and made repeated attempts to cross the stream which runs through the town, but was as often repulsed by the artillery of the Americans. The situation of Washington was most critical. An overwhelming force was approaching in front ; in the

rear, the Delaware becoming more obstructed by floating ice, rendered a retreat almost impossible. An escape under cover of night was the only chance of safety. Leaving a few men to keep the watch-fires burning, to allay the suspicions of the enemy, Washington silently withdrew all his army and artillery, and at dawn was in sight of Princeton ; here he was met by some British regiments on the march, and one of the hottest battles ensued that was fought during the war. At last, victory was declared in favor of the Americans, but it was dearly bought. Gen. Mercer and several other valuable officers were among the slain. Washington, in his usual prudent manner, immediately retired toward Morristown, where he took up his quarters for the Winter.

During the Spring of 1777 the British commander in New York employed all his time in sending expeditions up the Hudson and into Connecticut, to seize the military stores of the Americans. They marched through the country with all possible speed, and either destroyed or carried away everything that was to be found.

Meanwhile the American army was daily gaining strength by new recruits, and at length amounted to about 15,000 men.

ARRIVAL OF LAFAYETTE AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED FOREIGNERS.

Principally through the efforts of the American Commissioners in France, a large number of foreign military officers offered their services to Congress. Among these officers who afterward became well known, were the famous Kosciusko and Count Pulaski, two young Polish officers and patriots; Conway, an Irishman by birth, but thirty years an officer in the French army, and after entering the American service, one of the most unprincipled of Washington's enemies; the Marquis de Lafayette; Baron de Kalb; and Baron Steuben, a Prussian General trained under Frederick the Great, who did great service to the American army in perfecting its discipline.

Lafayette was a young nobleman, less than twenty years of age, and when he first heard of the struggle of the Americans, their Declaration

of Independence, and the efforts made to crush them, he was dining with the Duke of Gloucester, brother of George III., and some French noblemen, in the old town of Mentz, Germany. His soul was fired with enthusiasm for liberty, and quitting the French army, he hastened to Paris to offer his services to Silas Deane, the American Commissioner at that time in France. His offer was accepted, and the rank of Major-General promised him, which Congress confirmed on his arrival in Philadelphia. Although he had just married a young and beautiful girl, was heir to an immense fortune, and had brilliant prospects at the French Court, he left all, and hastened to America in a vessel fitted out at his own expense. Here he fought gallantly in the cause of freedom, and his name will forever be linked with that of Washington and Liberty.

THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE.

About the time of the arrival of these distinguished allies, news was received that General Burgoyne was approaching from Canada, and it

was judged that Lord Howe would move up the Hudson with his army to meet him, instead of making his long-threatened attack upon Philadelphia. Washington, who watched carefully every movement of the enemy, soon discovered the arrival of the British fleet in the Chesapeake Bay, where, after landing, 16,000 men marched rapidly toward Philadelphia. They were met by the Americans at Brandywine Creek, where a severe battle ensued, which lasted nearly all day. The Americans were defeated with great loss, and after various efforts to repulse the enemy. Philadelphia was finally abandoned to the British; the Americans repaired to a strong position on the Schuylkill, about twenty miles above the city. On the evening of the 18th of September, Congress left Philadelphia for a second time, and proceeded first to Lancaster, and afterward to York, where it remained until Philadelphia was evacuated by the British.

ADOPTION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG.

During the past session of Congress a national flag had been adopted, as, the United States

being now an independent nation, it was time that it should have a flag of its own.

The official origin of the grand Union flag is involved in obscurity. The colors of the stripes may have been suggested by the red flag of the army, and the white one of the navy, previously in use. These thirteen stripes are supposed to have been used first on a banner presented in 1774 or 1775 to the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop, by Capt. Abraham Markoe. At the time of its adoption at Cambridge (Jan. 2, 1776), the colonies still acknowledged the legal right of the mother country, and therefore retained the blended cross of St. George and St. Andrew. After the Declaration of Independence the emblems of British union became inappropriate, but they were retained until the following year.

Congress resolved, June 14, 1777, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. This is the first recorded legislative action for the adoption of a new flag.

It is supposed that the flag was first unfurled by John Paul Jones, on the "Ranger." It is said to have been made and given him by some patriotic ladies in Philadelphia, and that he procured a small boat and sailed up and down the Schuylkill, to show to the assembled people what their national ensign was to be.

BATTLE OF BENNINGTON.

While Washington was engaged, as we have related, in endeavoring to maintain the cause of liberty in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the Northern campaign was carried on with vigor and brilliant success. Gen. Burgoyne, an ambitious, enterprising man, had succeeded in obtaining the command of the British forces in Canada, and had already a great number of Canadians and Indians joined to his regular force. He advanced toward Crown Point and Ticonderoga, which were easily taken, as the greater part of the American forces were with the Commander-in-chief in New Jersey. Gen. Schuyler, who had command at Fort Edward, had greatly annoyed the British on their ap-

proach, by felling trees and destroying bridges; but finding them too strong for him, he was obliged to retreat across the Hudson to Saratoga. While at Fort Edward, Gen. Burgoyne heard that a considerable quantity of military stores and provisions were deposited at Bennington. With a view to secure them, Col. Baum, a brave German officer, was sent out with five hundred troops and one hundred Indians. A party of New Hampshire militia, under Col. Stark, had lately arrived in Bennington, and hearing of Baum's approach, Stark sent immediately for all the militia and forces in the neighborhood. Baum hearing of these preparations to meet him, intrenched himself six miles from Bennington, and sent to Burgoyne for reinforcements; but before these could arrive, Stark attacked him, August 16th.

The day was bright and sunny, and early in the morning Stark sent forward two columns to storm the intrenchments at different points. When the firing commenced, he threw himself on his horse and advanced with the main body of his troops. As soon as the enemy's columns

were seen forming on the hill-side, he exclaimed, "See, men! there are the red coats! We must beat to-day, or Molly Stark's a widow!" The militia replied to this appeal with a tremendous shout. The battle which followed lasted two hours, and was one of the hottest fought during the war. The Indians ran off at the beginning of the battle; the Tories were driven across the river; and although the Germans fought bravely, they were compelled to fly, leaving their artillery and baggage on the field. Scarcely were the intrenchments carried, and the enemy dispersed, before the reinforcements arrived. The battle was renewed, and gained by the Americans. Stark was made a Brigadier in the army for his bravery that day.*

THE BATTLE OF SARATOGA.

On the news of this defeat, Burgoyne was in great perplexity. To retreat, advance, or remain inactive, seemed equally perilous. With little hope of reaching Albany, where he had proudly boasted he would eat his Christmas dinner, he

* SPENCER.

crossed over the Hudson, and formed a fortified camp on the hills and plains of Saratoga.

Loud complaints having been made against Gen. Schuyler for the conduct of the campaign, Congress took a step which was as ungracious as it was unjust toward one of the bravest and most patriotic officers in the American army. He was removed from his command just when he was about to reap the reward of his labors, and Gen. Horatio Gates was appointed in his place. Schuyler felt acutely the disgrace of being displaced at this critical moment, but rising superior to all personal considerations, he received Gates with that high-toned courtesy peculiar to gentlemen of the old school, and said to him, "I have done all that could be done, as far as the means were in my power, to inspire confidence in our own soldiers, and, I flatter myself, with some success; but the palm of victory is denied me, and it is left to you, General, to reap the fruits of my labors. I will not fail, however, to second your views, and my devotion to my country will cause me with alacrity to obey all your orders."

Soon after Gates had entered upon the command, he advanced to Bemis Heights, a little above Stillwater, not far from Burgoyne. On the 19th of September an alarm sounded that the British were advancing, and a spirited engagement followed, without any decided result. Two weeks of inactivity followed the battle, during which the two armies were within cannon shot of each other. Burgoyne had intended to await the arrival of reinforcements under Gen. Clinton; but hearing nothing from him, he prepared for another attack upon the Americans. He again advanced, and after a severe battle of several hours, was compelled to fall back to the heights of Saratoga, and leave the patriots in possession of the field. Ten days after, finding only three days' provisions in the camp, he was obliged to surrender his whole army prisoners of war. This was a glorious victory to the Americans. It gave them a vast amount of munitions of war, but its moral effect was of greater importance.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ARMY AT VALLEY FORGE DURING THE WINTER OF 1777 AND 1778—THE CONWAY CABAL, 1777 AND 1778—THE TREATY WITH FRANCE, FEB. 6, 1778—THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH, JUNE 28, 1778—THE ATTACK ON RHODE ISLAND, AUG., 1778—THE CAMPAIGN OF 1779, INCLUDING THE CAPTURE OF STONY POINT, JULY 16, 1779—THE NAVAL BATTLE WON BY JOHN PAUL JONES, SEPT.

THE ARMY AT VALLEY FORGE.

"In the bosom of a rugged gorge, on the banks of the Schuylkill, twenty miles northwest of Philadelphia, the American army encamped during the severe Winter of 1777 and 1778." Washington had moved up to this position, that he might the more easily afford protection to Congress, at York, and his stores at Reading. The events of the encampment at Valley Forge afford some of the gloomiest, as well as some of the most brilliant scenes, in the records of American patriotism. It is impossible to express in words the intense suffering which the army was called upon to endure, and

the almost superhuman firmness with which it was endured. Numbers of these brave soldiers had scarcely sufficient clothing to cover them; many were compelled to go barefoot over the snow, and few, if any, had blankets for the night. Half-fed and scantily-clothed, great numbers sickened and died, and others, unfitted for service by the cold, and want of sufficient clothing, were excused from military duty. Had Howe possessed enterprise enough to attack the patriot army at this time, disastrous must have been the consequences. Out of eleven or twelve thousand men in camp, it would have been difficult to muster five thousand fit for duty. It may be well believed that Washington was filled with anguish at the calamities of the army, and spared no exertions to improve its condition, in urging upon Congress the necessity of sending them assistance. He was authorized to seize provisions wherever he could, and give bills on Congress for the amount. This was a harsh measure, but in some degree improved the condition of the army.

THE CONWAY CABAL.

During the Winter occurred the famous plot known as the Conway Cabal. It would seem that Washington had a sufficiently heavy burden on his shoulders, in the harassing cares and anxieties of his position, and that he might have been spared from trials of a personal nature to which he was exposed at this time. Thus far, apparently little else than ill success had attended the military exploits of the Commander-in-chief. He had been compelled to retreat continually before a powerful enemy. New York and Philadelphia had been lost, and there was almost nothing of a brilliant or striking character in what had transpired during the war, under Washington's immediate direction. On the other hand, the victory at Saratoga had thrown a lustre around the name of Gates which far outshone, for the time, the solid and enduring light of Washington's noble and patriotic devotion to his country. It was the first great victory of the war, and it was a victory which had a most important effect upon

the future prospects of the United States. No wonder, then, that restless and envious men should make invidious comparisons between the hero of Saratoga and the Commander-in-chief. A direct and systematic attempt was made to ruin the military reputation of Washington by charging him with want of energy and success. Generals Gates and Mifflin of the army, Samuel Adams and others in Congress, had more or less to do with the matter. Gates and Mifflin had taken offence at something, and Conway, a restless, boasting, and intriguing character, was disappointed in not receiving the appointment of Inspector-General. Samuel Adams and some of the New England members do not seem ever to have cordially liked Washington's appointment to the Commander-in-chief of the army, and now, when the capture of Burgoyne had been effected by the Northern army, without the intervention of Washington, the malcontents assumed a bolder attitude. Anonymous letters were freely circulated, attributing the ill success of the Americans to the incapacity or vacillating policy of Wash-

ington, and filled with insinuations and complaints against him. In this way they thought to compel him to resign, and then elevate Gates to the command of the army. The plotting was very active and malignant while it continued, but Washington held too firm a place in the confidence of the people and the army to be easily shaken from it. The country was aroused, his enemies baffled, and his popularity rose to a greater height than ever.

TREATY WITH FRANCE.

The victory at Saratoga weighed mightily, in favor of the Americans, at the Court of France. Unaided by any foreign power they had defeated and captured a well-trained army of about six thousand men. France greatly rejoiced at the embarrassments of England, and had thought it inexpedient to assist the colonies openly, until there was some chance of their success; yet arms, ammunition, and money were secretly provided for a long time previous to the treaty. On Feb. 6, 1778, the alliance with America was publicly acknowledged;

France having agreed with the American Commissioners on two treaties: one of friendship and commerce, the other of defensive alliance, in case Great Britain should declare war against France; and no peace was to be made, without mutual consent, until the independence of the United States had been acknowledged by England.

The English Ministry felt the necessity of offering terms to the Americans, and accordingly sent five Commissioners, with full powers, to treat with the colonies for the restoration of English authority. On their arrival in America, Congress declined to treat with them unless the independence of the colonies was first recognized and the fleets and armies withdrawn. The Commissioners failing in their negotiations with Congress, returned to England, and the war continued.

THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH.

The first movement of the French Government, in compliance with the requirements of the treaty with America, was to despatch a

squadron, under Count d'Estaing, to blockade the British fleet in the Delaware. Sir Henry Clinton received orders to evacuate Philadelphia and the Delaware and concentrate his forces in New York. He immediately made preparations to commence his march through New Jersey. On the 28th of June, 1778, when he had advanced as far as Monmouth (the present village of Freehold), he found himself attacked by the American army under Generals Charles Lee, Greene, Lafayette, and Washington himself. "It was Sabbath morning, and one of the most sultry days ever known, when the two armies met in conflict. From nine o'clock in the forenoon till dark on that long Summer day, the terrible contest raged. It was commenced by the advanced division of the American army under General Lee. His apparent want of courage or skill produced a general and tumultuous retreat of his division. The fugitives were met by the main body under Washington, and being speedily checked and restored to order by the Commander-in-chief, they were led to action and the battle became general. Many fell under

the excessive heat of the day, and when night came, both parties were glad to rest." The Americans slept on their arms during the night, with the intention of renewing the battle at dawn; but when morning came, the British camp was deserted; Clinton was far on his way toward Sandy Hook, where he met the British fleet, and proceeded to New York. The Royal army made that city their headquarters till the close of the war. Washington marched to the Hudson River, thence to White Plains, where he remained till Autumn. General Lee was very much censured by Washington for his conduct at Monmouth, not only at the time, but afterwards; he was tried by court martial, found guilty of disobeying orders, misbehaving before the enemy, and treating the Commander-in-chief with disrespect. His sentence was suspension from the army for a year. Shortly after the expiration of the period of his sentence he addressed a hasty and insolent letter to Congress, and for this his name was promptly ordered to be struck from the roll of the army.

THE ATTACK ON RHODE ISLAND.

When d'Estaing with the French squadron appeared off Sandy Hook, the British fleet was safe in Raritan Bay. D'Estaing therefore relinquished his plan of attacking Lord Howe, and on the solicitation of Washington, he proceeded to Newport, to assist the Americans to drive out the British from Rhode Island. On the 29th of July, 1778, the fleet arrived in Narragansett Bay, and on the 8th of August entered the harbor. This delay proved fatal to the enterprise, for it gave the brave and active Lord Howe time to appear off the harbor of Newport. D'Estaing immediately sailed out to give him battle, but before the ships could engage, a terrible storm scattered and disabled both fleets. The loss of the assistance of the French was a great disappointment to the Americans, who found it necessary to retreat from the Island during the night. It was undoubtedly a lucky escape, for Sir Henry Clinton arrived next day with four thousand men,

and a longer stay on the Island would probably have proved fatal.

Nothing more of importance marked the campaign, which gave satisfaction to neither of the contending parties. The English were the more successful in the few actions which took place. The Americans had recovered Philadelphia, while the British had gained a foothold in Georgia.

The American cause was still laboring under great difficulties. Congress had very little specie, and had issued so much paper money that it had become nearly worthless. Everything must have gone to ruin if it had not been for the exertions of Robert Morris, a Member of Congress from Philadelphia, in which city he was a leading merchant. He borrowed large sums of money and lent them to the Government. This he continued to do till the close of the war. Notwithstanding all this, the army were still heavy sufferers, not only for the want of their pay, but for the necessaries of life.*

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* SCOTT.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1779.

The dawn of 1779 was gloomy with evil forebodings for the patriot cause. The principal military operations of the year were carried on in the two extreme sections of the Confederacy. Gen. Prevost assumed the chief command of the British forces at Savannah, and Gen. Lincoln was appointed to the command of the American army in the South.

One of the most important events of this year was the capture of Stony Point, on the Hudson, July 16, 1779. The fort stood upon a high, rocky promontory, surrounded by a deep swamp covered with water. At midnight the troops commanded by Gen. Wayne marched through this morass, in the face of a heavy cannonade from the aroused garrison; still the Americans were not allowed to fire a gun. The success was complete; the fort was taken at the point of the bayonet, and its surviving defenders all made prisoners. Gen. Wayne was among the wounded. As he was entering the fort he was struck by a musket ball; he fell, but rose upon

one knee, and said, "Forward, my brave fellows, forward!" then in a low voice he said to one of his aids, "Assist me; if I die, I will die in the fort." Fortunately the wound proved less severe than was at first supposed. The spoils of this success was a large amount of military stores.

The naval operations during the war for Independence do not occupy a conspicuous place in history, yet they were by no means insignificant; and this year was marked by one of the most desperate naval battles ever known.

John Paul Jones, a Scotchman by birth, but an American by adoption, and commissioned officer in the Navy, was cruising near the British coast in September, in command of a small squadron of three ships, fitted out in France, and fell in with two powerful English frigates, convoying a number of merchant vessels to the Baltic Sea. The battle began at seven in the evening, and lasted for three hours. Jones managed to lash his flagship, the "Bon Homme Richard," to the British ship "Serapis," and with muzzle to muzzle they poured broadsides

into each other. Three times both ships were on fire. Finally the "Serapis" surrendered, and ten minutes after, the other frigate did the same. Jones' ship was so injured that she sunk the next day. Many other brave acts were performed by American seamen during the war.

CHAPTER V.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1780—THE CAMPAIGN OF 1781, INCLUDING THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN—EVENTS OF 1782 TO THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1780.

THE Winter of 1779–'80 was the most severe ever known in the country. The main body of the American army was scattered among the hills around Morristown. Gen. Clinton having determined to make the South the principal theatre of the war, sailed with the main body of his army, and landed about thirty miles below Charleston. The approach of the British was so slow and cautious, that Lincoln, the American General, had time to strengthen his works, and add to his garrison a number of militia from the surrounding country. The enemy soon attacked Charleston with vigor, and the situation of the Americans became every day more and more

distressing, till at length the garrison surrendered, and General Lincoln and a large body of troops became prisoners of war. After the surrender, Clinton sent off three expeditions to subjugate South Carolina. The whole State was brought so completely under British rule, that Clinton set sail in the early part of June for New York, leaving Cornwallis to secure its conquest. The Carolinas abounded in Tories, who now joined the British forces in large numbers. On the other hand, there were bands of American patriots in those States, called partisan corps, who were very active, such as Marion, Sumter, and Pickens.

In view of the distress of the Southern States, Gen. Gates was despatched with a large force for their relief. On the 6th of August he unexpectedly met Cornwallis near Camden, and a short and violent battle was fought, which ended in a disorderly retreat of the Americans. To sum up the disasters of the American cause, the brave Gen. Sumter was surprised by Tarleton at Fisher's Creek, and nearly the whole of his troops destroyed; he himself escaped

with difficulty. The South was at the mercy of the British. Gates lost all his fame, and was superseded by Greene.

The campaign of 1780 was the most calamitous of any of the war. During this year the military operations were nearly suspended at the North. The three Southern States were incapable of helping themselves, and those at the North were penniless. To add to these calamities, Gen. Arnold proved a traitor, and came near betraying West Point into the hands of the enemy. The loss of that military post would have proved irreparable to the country. It would have given the British the command of the Hudson, thus separating the Middle from the Eastern States.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1781.

The campaign of 1781 was virtually the last of the war. It was commenced by the ravages of Arnold in Virginia, who, at the head of a number of men, principally Tories, ascended the James River as far as Richmond, and burned many public and private buildings. A plan

was laid by Washington for his capture, but the English General, apprised of this project, sent a large detachment to his assistance, under Gen. Philips, and Arnold returned to New York.

In another section, further south, hostilities were carried on early in the season. Greene commanded the Americans, and Lord Cornwallis the British forces. Nothing could be more destructive and harassing than this warfare in the Southern States. One army was in constant pursuit of the other, and both armies could only subsist by levying contributions, as injurious to friends as to enemies. The result of the campaign in the Carolinas gave great satisfaction to Washington and Congress. With limited means, and under the most trying difficulties, Gen. Greene had repeatedly fought the enemy, and although he had never gained a decisive victory, yet even when defeated, he obtained to a considerable extent the object for which he fought. In the end, he was able to wrest South Carolina from the British, and restore that State to the American Union.

Little was done at the North during the year

1781. In the Spring the Pennsylvania troops, to the number of thirteen hundred, revolted, and left the camp for the want of pay. It was found on examination that their complaints were well founded. Their claims being met, the rebellion ceased.

During the Summer, Washington had been hoping, with the aid of the French fleet and army, to make a combined attack on New York, but he was unable to bring it about. He then turned his attention to Cornwallis, who had stationed his army at Yorktown, Virginia, that he might the more easily move to the assistance of Clinton, if an attack should be made on New York. The plan was to blockade the Chesapeake with the fleet, and at the same time invest Yorktown with the army. Washington, who was in the neighborhood of New York, moved with so much caution, and so completely deceived Clinton as to his intentions, that before the British General understood his plans, the army was well on its way to Virginia. "As the American troops passed through Philadelphia the middle of August, uncertain as to their des-

tination, they evinced great dissatisfaction. Washington was enabled to pacify them by a partial discharge of their arrears, in consequence of the timely arrival of Laurens from France with half a million of dollars, besides arms and ammunition. Rochambeau had also advanced twenty thousand dollars from the French military chest. Had it not been for this supply, the expedition might have failed, for American credit was then at its lowest point of depression, and the old continental bills were worth next to nothing, one dollar in specie would purchase one thousand in bills, so extreme was the depreciation, so low the credit of the nation."

SIEGE OF YORKTOWN.

On the 28th of September, the allied army encamped before Yorktown, and the French fleet blockaded the Chesapeake. The British force numbered about eight thousand men. Cornwallis was hemmed in on all sides by superior forces. Works were soon thrown up, and on the 9th of October the bombardment began.

Two advanced redoubts of the British were taken, additional batteries were erected by the allies, and the ramparts of the enemy crumbled beneath the destructive fire. On the 16th, Cornwallis saw that the place could hold out but a short time longer, and the next night he determined on the desperate plan of crossing over to Gloucester Point, then forcing his way through the troops stationed there, and to push on to New York by rapid marches. The plan was abandoned in consequence of a storm, which drove the boats down the river. Nothing could be done but to capitulate, and on the 19th, Cornwallis surrendered his entire army prisoners of war. The shipping was given to the French. The news of the surrender of Cornwallis was received with great rejoicing throughout the country. Everywhere it was felt that this must end the war. In England the news produced great astonishment and mortification. Sensible men saw that any further struggle to keep possession of the American colonies must be useless; but the English King, and the Parliament which met in November, still showed a determined and warlike spirit.

EVENTS OF 1782.

The year of 1782 was most marked by negotiations for peace, and the strategy of diplomatists. In the month of March, the House of Commons voted to end the war, and on the 20th, a new minister (Lord Rockingham), in favor of peace, came into office. Finally, George III. yielded, and orders were sent to the British generals to stop fighting. Negotiations for peace were then opened in earnest, and Richard Oswald, a British merchant, was sent to Paris to confer with Franklin. Nothing less than the acknowledgment of independence, a satisfactory boundary, and a participation in the fisheries, would suit the Americans. These terms were accepted as the basis of a treaty. John Adams, John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and Henry Laurens were appointed Commissioners on the part of the United States, and Mr. Oswald and Mr. Fitzherbert on the part of Great Britain. The preliminary Articles of Peace were signed at Paris on the 30th of November. This treaty could not be final until the English and French

had concluded a separate treaty. In January of the next year, 1783, France and Great Britain agreed on terms of peace. Everything, however, was not finally arranged until September 3, 1783, when a definitive treaty was signed by all the nations which had taken part in the war; by England on one side, and France, Spain, Holland, and the United States on the other. On the 25th of November the British departed from New York, and on the 4th of December, Washington made his farewell address to the army, and then left for Annapolis, to resign his commission to Congress, which was assembled there.

CHAPTER VI.

RESULT OF THE REVOLUTION—THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

RESULT OF THE REVOLUTION.

"Of all the contests of modern times, the American Revolution was the most glorious in its principles, its actions, and its results. No great and brilliant victories, like those of Napoleon and Wellington, crowned the arms of our countrymen; but, when all circumstances are duly considered—their inexperience, their poverty, and the difficulties they had to surmount—their success was wonderful, and has been universally acknowledged and honored, even by their enemies."

Great Britain gained nothing by the war. It cost her one hundred million pounds sterling, and fifty thousand lives, besides depriving the

nation of the very colonies for whose taxation the war was waged. It must be acknowledged that the British fought bravely, and persevered as long as a shadow of hope remained. They were conquered, not by superior strength or skill, but by the impediments which nature presented, by mistakes of their own, and by the invincible will of a nation determined to be free.

The United States gained their independence, "a name and a place among the nations of the earth," but the war brought with it a long train of evils. Dr. Ramsey, of South Carolina, who wrote a history of the Revolution just after its occurrence, says: "On the whole, the literary, political, and military talents of the United States have been improved by the Revolution, but the moral character is inferior to what it was." Before the Revolution the people were religious, sober, honest, and industrious. There was comparatively little of merchandising or manufactures, and still less of useless speculating and downright idleness. An army always

corrupts not only its members, but the society which surrounds it. Although the American army was made up for the most part of its own citizens, yet it contained many useless and vicious men.

The cause of education suffered greatly during the war. Common schools were not only neglected, but in many instances suffered to perish. The course of instruction in our colleges was sometimes suspended, and many a student became a soldier. A large national debt was created, which, with the State debts, amounted to seventy millions of dollars. The finances of the United States were embarrassed and the Government unsettled. Commerce was deranged and needed regulating. The imports far exceeded the exports. The fisheries were broken up, and the country was drained of specie. There were troubles arising with various European States about navigation and boundaries. The subject of slavery was undecided. It was a very trying time in the history of the country, and many wise and good men doubted

if the country would survive it; and men began to see that a stronger central government was necessary. This unsettled state of the country led to the necessity of a new organization. Accordingly, a convention of delegates was called to meet in the State House of Philadelphia, in order to decide upon a new Constitution, and make, if possible, a stronger government, without doing harm to the liberties of the people.*

After a long discussion, on September 17, 1787, the present Constitution was adopted. It had still to be accepted by the different States, ten of which agreed to it almost immediately, while New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island accepted it later. The confederation had changed the colonies into independent States, and the Union now united these States into a single nation.

THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

At the close of the Revolutionary war, the

* GOODRICH.

United States contained a population of little less than three millions. This population was mainly settled upon the western shore of the Atlantic Ocean, for a distance of about one thousand miles north and south. The extent of the settlements inland from the coast may have averaged one hundred miles. Nominally, and as distinguished from those of other civilized nations, the territories of the confederation stretched westward to the Mississippi, and northward, as now, to the great lakes, giving a total area of little more than 800,000 square miles. Instead of the original thirteen States, with three millions of people, there are now thirty-seven States and twelve Territories, with a population (in 1870) of more than thirty-eight million (38,558,371), and the area, which now stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, including Alaska, has increased to more than three and a half million square miles (3,559,091.)

The expenditures of the Government, which consist of the civil lists and administration, Indians, pensions, interest on public debt, pre-

miums on purchased bonds, the army and navy, is estimated for the year ending June 30, 1876, to amount to little more than $272,500,000, while the revenue, which comes from customs, inland revenue (on whiskey, tobacco, and malt liquors), land sales, bank taxes, Pacific Railway, fines, consular and other fees, public property sold, premium on gold, and miscellaneous sources, amounts to $293,000,000. The surplus goes to diminish the public debt, which during the late Civil war reached the enormous sum of three billion dollars, more than one-fifth of it having already been paid.

The Great West of to-day owes its unequalled growth and progress, its population, productiveness, and wealth, primarily to the framers of the Federal Constitution, by which its development was rendered possible, but more immediately to the sagacity and statesmanship of Jefferson, the purchaser of Louisiana; to the genius of Fitch and Fulton, the projector and achiever, respectively, of steam navigation; to De Witt Clinton, the champion of artificial inland navi-

gation; and to Henry Clay, the eminent, eloquent, and efficient champion of the diversification of our national industry through the protection of home manufactures.*

It is unquestionably upon the agriculture of the United States that the progress of the country depends. Considering America as the granary of Europe, agriculture takes its place as the most important interest of the country. Among our exports, foremost in value stands wheat, then cotton, tobacco, pickled pork and hams, butter and cheese.

In 1870 the entire annual yield of iron ore was over three million tons, one-third produced by Pennsylvania. There were more than forty-five million tons of coal raised, of which Pennsylvania produced three-quarters of the entire quantity. The yield of precious metals for that year was more than sixty-six million dollars, Nevada producing the largest amount and California the next.

The military history of the United States is

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* GREELEY.

as strange as the rapid rise and growth of the nation. In 1790 the rank and file of the army as fixed by act of Congress amounted to 1,216 men. In 1861, at the commencement of the war of secession, the whole regular force amounted to only 14,000 men. In April of that year the President called out 75,000 volunteers for three months; in May, another call for 42,000 was made; and in July, Congress authorized two calls, for 500,000 each. Finally, it was found necessary to introduce the conscription, and the total number of men called under arms by the Government of the United States between April, 1861, and April, 1865, amounted to 2,752,049. If to these be added the 1,100,000 men embodied in the Southern States during the same time, the total armed forces reach the enormous number of nearly 4,000,000, drawn from a population of only 32,000,000, figures before which the recent efforts of France and Germany in the war of 1870–1871 sink into insignificance. And within three years the whole of these vast forces were peaceably disbanded, and the army had

sunk to a nominal strength of only 30,000 men.*

At the opening of the war of 1812, the whole naval armament of the United States consisted of twenty vessels; while the British fleet numbered from eight hundred to one thousand ships.

The present effective force of the navy consists of fifty-four unarmed cruisers, seventeen iron-clads, two torpedo vessels, and twenty-two steam tug-boats, and tenders, mounting five hundred and sixty guns. There are one hundred and forty-seven vessels of all descriptions, but many of them are sailing ships, and several are unfitted for service. There are also several building, five of which are iron-clads.

Steamboats were first used on the Hudson in 1807. The first steamboat launched on western waters was the "Vesuvius," at Pittsburg, in 1813, and was built to run between the falls of the Ohio and New Orleans. The total number of vessels in the United States in 1873, was 31,684, with a tonnage of 4,468,046.

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* "Encyclopedia Britannica."

The growth of the railway system dates from 1827, when the first line was opened for traffic, at Quincey, Massachusetts. The extent of railways in 1873 was 59,549 miles, and the amount of capital invested was estimated at $3,500,000,000.

The greatest triumphs achieved by the United States have been, thus far, in the direction of mechanical ingenuity; and American literature, science, and art have not yet won the applause of the world quite so thoroughly as have American sewing-machines and agricultural implements. Yet the poetry of Bryant, Whittier, and Longfellow; the prose of Irving, Hawthorne, and Emerson; the scientific discoveries of Franklin, Morse, and Morton; the paintings of Copley, Allston, and Page; the sculptures of Powers, Story, and Harriet Hosmer, have obtained great and permanent reputation. The spread of popular instruction in America is very wide, higher education is on the increase, and there is no reason why the United States should not become more and more the chosen home of

literature, science, and art, as well as of mechanical ingenuity and business skill.*

"In point of intelligence, energy, and internal resources, this nation acknowledges no superior in the world, and it should be the endeavor, as well as the pride, of every citizen, not only to maintain this high position, but also to promote still further progress in all the ennobling sciences and arts of civilization."

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* HIGGINSON.

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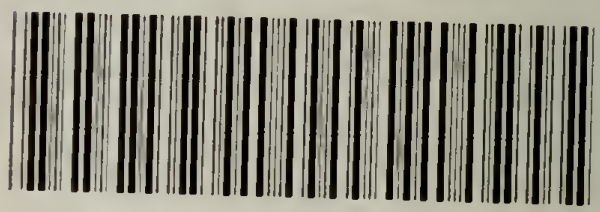
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